

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 43, 49-51 and 57-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sukenori et al. (US 5,943,106).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-21 and 34-42 are allowed and claims 44-48 and 52-56 recite allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 43, 45, 51 and 53 to further define the invention, and canceled claims 44 and 52 without prejudice and disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 13-21, 34-43, 45-51 and 53-58 are pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 43, 49-51 and 57-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sukenori et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Independent claim 43 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 44, and independent claim 51 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 52. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 43, 49-51 and 57-58 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

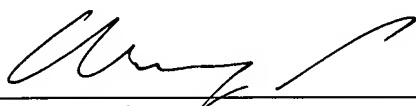
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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